

choice-wireless.com Phone: 340-774-0024 Fax: 340-774-0008 9719 Estate Thomas St. Thomas, USVI 00802

March 7, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

RE:

Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90 Nonbinding Expression of Interest

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Choice Communications, LLC ("Choice Wireless" or "Company") submits this letter as its nonbinding expression of interest to conduct an experiment to deploy high-speed, scalable, IP-based network using wireless technologies in rural, high-costs areas with Connect America funding. The following paragraphs provide the information suggested by the Commission for expressions of interest:

- 1. Nature of submitting entity: Choice Wireless is a wholly owned subsidiary of Atlantic TeleNetwork, Inc., a publicly held company headquartered in Beverly, Massachusetts. Choice Wireless is the major provider of wireless broadband service and the wireless carrier with the greatest coverage in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). Choice Wireless is an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and receives high cost support from the Federal Universal Service Fund. Given that the USVI did not qualify for Mobility Fund Phase I finding, and the phase down of existing funding for wireless, Choice Wireless welcomes the opportunity to access new universal service funds to serve un-served and underserved areas in the USVI.
- Identification of proposed service area: Choice Wireless proposes to conduct the experiment in the all or some of the eligible census tracts in the USVI that are identified in Attachment A.
- 3. The broadband technologies to be deployed: Choice Wireless anticipates it will deploy fixed and mobile broadband service via LTE and/or WiMax technology. Choice Wireless anticipates it will offer voice service along with fixed and mobile broadband service with speeds ranging from 3Mbps—10 Mbps down and 1Mbps-10Mbps up.
- 4. Contemplated service offerings: While Choice Wireless has not yet identified the precise service or pricing that it will offer as part of the experiment, Choice Wireless anticipates the pricing tiers will range from \$50 per month up to \$150 per month depending on the service and the number of locations targeted in the final experiment.
- 5. Expected State and or local government participation: While Choice Wireless has not presently engaged any government entities in this experiment, our Company contemplates the full support from all relevant USVI government entities. Choice Wireless has a history of cooperation and close



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relationship with various government entities in its service area and will look at creative and mutually beneficial partnership opportunities to develop the most efficient experiment possible.

6. High level estimate of one time or recurring funding requirements: Due to the nature of the eligible census tracts identified in Attachment A and the low income status of many inhabitants, it is likely that recurring funding may be needed. At this stage Choice Wireless does not have an accurate estimate of the funding requirement for the project, but has begun to estimate such and anticipates being able to provide that before making a formal request. The total funding request for the proposed experiment could range from \$4-6M depending on the final design of the experiment.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions or need any clarification of the Choice Wireless' expression of interest. We eagerly look forward to working with the Commission in expanding the provision of broadband service to un-served and underserved areas of the USVI through the Connect America Fund.

Sincerely,

**Tony Shepherd** 

CEO/General Manager

## Choice Communications, LLC Connect America Fund, WC Docket 10-90 Nonbinding Expression of Interest Attachment A

State	County	CountyName	TractID	Eligible High Cost Locations	Extremely High Cost Locations	Annual Support
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010970100	1525	49	\$662,513
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010970200	777	8	\$146,524
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010970300	949	0	\$127,936
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010970400	2081	62	\$580,806
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010970500	1204	2	\$251,064
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010970600	1679	11	\$533,153
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010970700	854	32	\$272,367
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010970800	956	52	\$258,690
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010970900	785	7	\$206,592
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010971000	1095	168	\$427,484
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010971100	1290	27	\$287,112
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010971200	1638	9	\$267,207
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010971300	1103	27	\$338,021
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010971400	640	16	\$182,737
VI	78010	St. Croix	78010971500	1165	48	\$336,809
VI	78020	St. John	78020950100	1287	82	\$796,095
VI	78020	St. John	78020950200	1973	17	\$419,985
VI	78030	St. Thomas	78030960100	980	0	\$108,840
VI	78030	St. Thomas	78030960200	533	12	\$91,525
VI	78030	St. Thomas	78030960300	352	0	\$36,854
VI	78030	St. Thomas	78030960400	980	1	\$133,793
VI	78030	St. Thomas	78030960500	2138	16	\$502,810
VI	78030	St. Thomas	78030960600	479	0	\$70,566
VI	78030	St. Thomas	78030960700	1381	30	\$210,759
VI	78030	St. Thomas	78030960800	743	10	\$267,584
VI	78030	St. Thomas	78030960900	1252	0	\$246,539
VI	78030	St. Thomas	78030961000	173	0	\$28,097
VI	78030	St. Thomas	78030961100	181	8	\$57,902
VI	78030	St. Thomas	78030961200	100	3	\$12,789